

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

January 22, 2012

Support President Obama's Plan to Reduce Gun Violence

President Obama recently released a comprehensive plan to reduce the prevalence of gun violence within communities. As part of the plan, the President issued twenty-three executive orders, initiatives which do not require congressional action. The steps taken by the President range from strengthening the federal background check system to providing training to law enforcement, school officials, and first responders on emergency preparedness measures. Further, the executive actions will increase the availability of data and research by tasking the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to research the causes and preventive measures required to reduce gun violence.

The President's plan includes several requests to Congress that encompass the following areas: (1) closing background check loopholes to keep guns out of dangerous hands; (2) banning military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and taking other common-sense measures to reduce gun violence; (3) making schools

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safer; and (4) improving mental health services. In addition to calling on Congress to reinstate and strengthen the federal prohibition on assault weapons, the plan endeavors to ban the possession of armor piercing bullets by anyone except members of the military and law enforcement. Further, the plan asks Congress to appropriate adequate funding to maintain police officers, conduct research and expand the system for collecting data, and increase mental health services and professional training. The plans seeks to ensure coverage of mental health treatment by issuing final regulations for coverage of mental health services and clarifying that the expansion of Medicaid is aligned with mental health parity requirements.

This comprehensive plan is of substantial consequence to Los Angeles County. Congress should swiftly take up consideration of these matters and move forward with legislation that enacts the various provisions of President Obama's gun violence reduction plan.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1) Support President Obama's comprehensive plan to reduce gun violence by transmitting a five-signature letter in support of the plan to the President and our Congressional delegation.

2) Direct the County's legislative advocates to notify the Board of proposed federal legislation pertaining to the President's plan and make recommendations to the Board as necessary.

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